

## Brenham Banner.

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NAT Q. HENDERSON, the great religious editor of the Austin Record, is back in his old position at Washington as a doorkeeper.

SUNSET COX has just had issued from the press a very readable book on the "Diversions of a Diplomat." It will no doubt have a good sale.

CHRISTMAS day has come and passed by, but the exchanges containing the editorial chestnut as to the origin of it have just begun to arrive.

The Post-Dispatch has discovered that a big gas "trust" has been formed in St. Louis, and crows lustily over the scoop it scored on the big morning dailies in publishing full information concerning it.

In response to instructions from his Ohio constituency John Sherman replies that he will do his level best to defeat the confirmation of Lamar. He, himself, however, confesses to a serious doubt as to his ability to succeed in the effort.

THERE are different ways to boom a town. The Tyler Record says that a buzzard in attempting to fly across a back street in that town was overcome by the stench emitted and fell down dead. The readers of the BANNER will please pardon us for quoting the above.

THE Post-Dispatch suggests a grand national soup-house for everybody who wants soup, as one of the methods of keeping down the surplus in the congested treasury. It, however, lays no claim to originality in making the suggestion, for it admits that Bro. Blaine's plan is based on that idea.

A FELLOW out west subscribed to a set of Shakespeare's plays from a passing book peddler, but when the agent came to collect the money he refused to pay for the works. He says that he didn't subscribe to Bacon's plays and would pay not for them until it is decided whether that gentleman or Shakespeare is the author. The agent ought to have an action over against Ignatius Donnelly, who caused all the trouble.

THE republicans shriek free trade at Cleveland and the democratic party, when there are none or but few in it, and "traitor" and "rebel" at Lamar when the war has been over, to these many years. All of which causes the New York Evening Post, a first-class mugwump paper, to fearfully remark upon how sad a sight it is to see the g. o. p. "sinking into the attitude of an obstructive and unpatriotic opposition."

DR. W. W. WATSON, of Massachusetts, has succeeded in establishing his heirship to property in New York City worth \$20,000,000. It was conveyed back in the early history of the settlement of Manhattan island by an ancestor for a term of 200 years, and the property at that time was worthless. The lease has just expired, and where barren marshy land then lay is now occupied by solid rows of buildings valued at the above figure.

THE Texas immigration committee met at Dallas on Thursday, and after adopting rules and selecting Austin as headquarters, adjourned. Representatives of the different railroads were present to confer with the committee and expressed themselves willing to give hearty co-operation to the movement. An executive committee of five, of which Hon. D. C. Giddings, of this city, is chairman, was chosen, a secretary was elected, and active work will be begun at once.

JUDGE HARE, another Texas congressman, has distinguished himself at Washington. He was presented with a very superior cigar, done up in tin foil, by Congressman Reed, of Maine, and smoked it without taking the foil off. The poisonous smoke drawn into his mouth from the burning foil made the gentleman almost deathly sick, and his friends had to give him a little outdoor exercise. Judge Hare is reported as wearing his honors easier than does his colleague, Col. Martin.

## IN A NEW LIGHT.

The continual agitation of the tariff question from now until the ideas of next November promises to open the eyes of many who have been the most bitter opponents of reduction, and the question will be viewed in an entirely new and different light. Even when the president launched forth his bold and fearless message to the people, some of his most ardent admirers and some of the boldest advocates of tariff reform doubted the policy of the decided stand which he took. Now, however, the host of revenue reformers is rapidly adding to its ranks: republican politicians and republican newspapers are daily coming out and announcing in favor of tariff reduction, and the republican party, although professing a willingness and even eagerness to meet the issue, realizes that it is on sinking ground and is becoming alarmed. To the great surprise of the most sanguine reformers, even the capitalists, who have their money invested in the "infant industries" are, some of them, becoming strong backers of the president's message, and claim that he did not come out strong enough on the subject. A recent issue of the New York Herald contains a most interesting batch of correspondence from Providence, R. I. The correspondent interviewed Roland Hazzard, Jr., one of the proprietors of the Peacedale woolen mills, which employ 500 operatives. He claimed that for a long time his company had been doing a losing business and was in favor of free trade; the business was overdone and the mills had to lie idle for a great part of the time as dead capital; with the ten cents a pound duty on the raw material they were unable to compete with the English and Germans in the finer lines of goods and were compelled to confine themselves to carpet and other coarser goods; that on some kinds of worsted goods imported the duty was less than on the wools from which his company would have to make the articles, so that the duty on wool acts the opposite from that was intended and is really a premium on foreign manufacture; that this pinch has been felt for a long time and was often aggravated from the fact that the lower wool goes in its fluctuations in foreign countries—the tax being fixed in this—the higher is the percentage manufacturers here pay on the article. Mr. Hazard claims that the president did not go far enough in his message, and that the manufacturers were suffering from an overdose of paternal government; that with free raw wool the manufacturers could get Canada's trade, supply very nearly all of the home market, and that the fluctuations would not be so great; that at present whenever the manufacturers happen to have a surplus there is no outlet for it. Prices never went low enough to enable them to export, and if they did the fluctuations would be simply enormous. Mr. Hazard concludes with the declaration that tariff was no protection to the manufacturers, but destruction, and that if congress did not carry out the president's suggestions and raw wool was not placed on the free list the manufacturers would have to quit business. And so it goes. The woolgrower wants to be protected against the foreigner and to keep him out, and the manufacturer wants free wool so he can compete in foreign markets. The small sugar farmer wants the public to pay tribute to him but does not want to pay tribute to the iron manufacturer. The tobacco grower in Virginia falls in love with Bro. Blaine idea that it is a necessity, but is willing to vote for free whisky, while the Kentucky distiller would like to have cheap tobacco and sell his whisky dear. The tariff is a two-edged sword, which cannot be regulated to satisfy all nor so adjusted as to symmetrically redound to the mutual advantage of all with injury to none. Therefore, let congress reduce the tariff to a strictly revenue basis, and, as Mr. Hazard says, hardship, or no hardship, under the new condition of things each class of sufferers, whether employers or employees, will have an opportunity of balancing the account.

THE BANNER is indebted to Mr. W. H. Cooke, of this city, for valuable northern papers which are outside of its exchange list.

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